GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:117
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2006
STRIKE BY CHEMISTS
Singh Shri Prabhunath

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the frequent strikes by the authorized chemists supplying medicines to CGHS dispensaries, particularly in Delhi are putting the beneficiaries in great inconvenience;

(b) if so, the number of times the chemists went on strike during the last three years and the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the authorized chemists do not supply all the prescribed medicines and the beneficiaries have to visit dispensaries a number of times to procure the same.

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to review the system of procuring specialists` prescribed medicines; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)to(e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 117 FOR 29TH NOVEMBER, 2006

(a)&(b): Since January, 2006, the chemists supplying medicines to CGHS dispensaries in Delhi have not gone on strike and no beneficiary has been put to inconvenience thereto. However, the chemists had resorted to strike during the last 3 years on the dates as mentioned below:-

(1) 1.1.2003 to 17.1.2003

(2) 1.11.2003 to 16.1.2004
8.3.04 to 4.4.04
26.8.04 to 31.8.04

(3) 17.2.05 to 28.2.05
25.3.05 to 18.4.05
24.11.05 to 14.12.05

The reason for the strike was mostly due to non-payment of their bills due to paucity of funds near the end of the financial year and it took time to seek additional fund for clearing the bills of the Chemists. In March, 2005, the Chemist had also raised the issue of introduction of VAT by the Government of NCT of Delhi.

(c) No, Sir. By and large the authorized Chemists supply the prescribed medicines. Whenever the prescribed medicines are not supplied by the Local Chemists, the beneficiaries are allowed to purchase the same from the open market and get the reimbursement.

(d)&(e): In view of (c) above, the question do not arise.